

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT[641]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 139A.3, the Department of Public Health hereby amends Chapter 1, "Reportable Diseases, Poisonings and Conditions, and Quarantine and Isolation," Iowa Administrative Code.

This amendment provides an exemption for health care providers and hospitals from reporting communicable and infectious disease laboratory results if the health care provider or hospital ensures that the laboratory performing the analysis provides a report containing the required information to the Department. Health care providers and hospitals that do not perform their own laboratory tests which yield reportable disease results will benefit from this amendment in that the providers and hospitals will not need to incur significant costs associated with electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) to the Department for the purpose of sending a duplicate report that the Department has already received. Also, Meaningful Use requirements call for eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals to accomplish information system-to-system communication. There is no consideration of one important reporting facet of hospital business practice: whether or not a hospital actually performs the laboratory test or sends it out to another laboratory facility. If a hospital performs the laboratory work, the hospital should comply with the Meaningful Use objective and report laboratory results. However, if the hospital does not perform the work and the performing laboratory reports results back to both the facility, which the laboratory would do naturally, and to the Department, which the laboratory should do to comply with existing legal requirements, then the additional effort and cost of implementing ELR from the requesting (but not performing) hospital so that it is capable of reporting a duplicate result to the Department provides zero benefit.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the April 3, 2013, Iowa Administrative Bulletin as **ARC 0672C**. No comments were received. The adopted amendment is identical to the one published under Notice.

The State Board of Health adopted this amendment on May 8, 2013.

After analysis and review of this rule making, the impact on jobs is anticipated to be minimal.

This amendment is intended to implement Iowa Code section 139A.3.

This amendment will become effective on July 3, 2013.

The following amendment is adopted.

Amend paragraph **1.4(1)"a"** as follows:

a. Health care providers, hospitals, clinical laboratories, and other health care facilities are required to report cases of reportable communicable and infectious diseases. Health care providers and hospitals are exempted from reporting communicable and infectious disease laboratory results if the health care provider or hospital ensures that the laboratory performing the analysis provides a report containing the required information to the department.

[Filed 5/8/13, effective 7/3/13]

[Published 5/29/13]

EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 5/29/13.